

To Whom It May Concern,

December 4, 2017

I am the grandfather of 3 students in Kindergarten, First and Second grades at Detroit Prep, as well as a neighbor to the abandoned Anna Joyce Elementary School in Pingree Park. **I am writing you to in support of Bill SB 702.**

This Bill, which would allow Detroit Prep to purchase and restore this abandoned school would give hope to our neighbors and community. This school should be an example of the hope that the city needs and is working to restore. As a small business-owner living in Detroit, it frustrates me greatly to see this building that was purchased and maintained with taxpayer monies, to be empty and broken down. To not allow a school to come in and renovate this empty facility, would be a misuse of those funds and energy invested in the education of Detroit's students. I believe that SB 702 accomplishes this goal.

SB 702 would allow abandoned buildings that are currently an eyesore to communities, drain on property values, and a magnet for crime, to be used for things that the surrounding neighborhood can be proud of and things that can attract more families to a neighborhood or city. If Bill SB 702 is passed, Detroit Prep will be able to purchase Anna Joyce Elementary, which will not only provide a permanent school home for Detroit Prep, one of the most unique and amazing schools in the city, but it will give something back to a worthy neighborhood.

Please consider this letter and any more you receive from parents and community members as a serious petition, urging you to pass Bill SB 702. We want to make a difference in a community by allowing Detroit Prep, a world-class school, to move in. We want abandoned school buildings to be able to be restored to their original purpose in their neighborhoods. We want sources of blight to be removed, and to turn our neighborhood into a place people are proud of!

Passing SB 702 is critical to my neighborhood and Detroit's revitalization. When schools close, like the Anna Joyce Elementary school across the street from my home, neighborhoods are destabilized. If schools are allowed to open again within the buildings, neighborhoods can again begin to gain residents and return as vibrant spaces for all people.

Feel free to reach out to any of us listed below, if we, as the neighbors and community can answer any questions or give you any more details on why we feel that passing SB 702 is so important to our city. The names below are all neighbors of mine in the Pingree Park and 48214 community with interest in this school developing with the passing of SB 702 and have given their support and permission to have their information listed!

Respectfully,
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